

Submitter: Les Lucht  
On Behalf Of: All Oregon Farmers  
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor  
Measure: HB4002

Dear House Committee On Business and Labor

I am a former farmer forced to sell my business in 2020. I have since worked for 6 different businesses in Oregon and Washington in a management position. I am appalled at the onslaught of rules, regulations, and taxes that have been FORCED on farmers by elected officials over the last 22 years in Oregon. And now, you want to FORCE farmers to pay overtime. Do you not realize that the average Oregon farmer makes between \$20k and \$60k/year? The bill you are proposing would be akin to requiring minimum wage workers to pay a 25% tax on top of what they are earning. The passage of this bill will forever change agriculture in our state much the same way as what is happening in California. A mass exodus. It will do nothing for the migrant workers who come here as there will be no jobs for them in Agriculture. Unlike the rest of the industries that employ migrant workers, farmers DO NOT have the power to raise the price they receive for their goods to offset all these increases in input costs. Do you not read the news? Fuel, fertilizer, chemicals etc. have all increased 30-50%. Now you want to add another 25% increase to their cost of doing business????

I encourage you to listen to what those in the Agriculture community are saying and realize that this is not the time to place another TAX on the Oregon farmer.

Sincerely,  
Les Lucht